THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) has been presently assigned the work to prepare the Photo Identity Cards of the electors of the 50 assembly constituencies of Delhi by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi. The agreement stipulates that INSDOC would carry out the tasks assigned by the CEO, Delhi, with regard to Photo Identity Card as per the programe and schedule decided by the CEO, Delhi.

(c) INSDOC besides carrying out the task at its main office, deputes field teams to visit Photo Identity card centres for photographing the voters.

(d) and (e) As per the present agreement INSDOC has been assigned the work to complete any item of remaining work to be done by the previous other agencies in respect of photos taken or the identity cards prepared by them including corrections, if any. Any correction duly authorised by the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is carried out by INSDOC in preparing new photo identity cards.

Setting up Bacterial Factories in the Country

3926. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up some bacterial factories in the country;

(b) if so, the places where these factories are coming up; and

(c) the number of such factories being set up by the private, public and joint sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) No Sir, However, research is being pursued using bacteria like Bacillus sphaericus, Bacillus thurringiensis and Pseudomonas sp., to contain pests.

Companies Permitted to set up Steel Plants

3927. DY. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise names of the companies in private sector which have been permitted to set up steel plants;

(b) the details of assistance and facilities provided by Government for setting up these plants; and

(c) the companies out of the above started functioning, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (c) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, 'Iron & Steel' industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. In terms of this policy, approval of the Union Government for Industrial Licence is required only if the project is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs according to the 1991 census, and this location is not within areas designated as 'Industrial area' by State Govt. before July 25, 1991. However, details of the Companies assisted by All India Financial Institutions and those which have started functioning are given in the Statement annexed. (*see* below).

(b) Various State Government provide assistance like acquisition of land, infrastructural facilities such as road development, water and power requirement and allied facilities for setting up the steel plants in their States. In addition to these, Central Government also provides appropriate linkages of raw materials and transport etc.

Statement

List of New/Proposed Steel Plants in Post Liberalisation Era

Status Date : .1.1.97

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit and Location	Process Route/Prod.	Capacity L.Tonnes	Investment Rs. Crores	Status/Date of Commissioning
A. *Plants Sanctioned by Fiancial Institutuions*					
1.	Nova Udyog Limited (Nainital, U.P.)	EAF B&R	2.40	101.40	Closed, Under BIFR Dec. 1993
2.	Indian Seamless S&A Ltd. (Pune, Maharashtra)	EAF B&R/Seamless Bar	1.50	175.00	In production Dec. 1994
3.	Iods Steel Ind. Ltd. (Wardha, Maharashtra)	EAF HRC/CRC/GPGC	6.00	1211.00 &	In production Dec. 95/Oct. 96
4.	Rajender Steel Ltd. (Raipur, M.P.)	EAF HRC	1.70	215.83	In production Jan. 1996
			1.30 (Exp)	118.50	Under impln. Jan, 1997
5.	Essar Steel Ltd. (Hazira, Gujarat)	HBI-EAF HRC	20.00	3933.00 #	In production Mar. 1996
6.	Prakash Ind. Ltd. (Bharuch, Gujarat & Silvassa, DHN)	EIF Billets/LP	1.20	62.52	In production Mar, 1996 (Rollling Mill at Silvassa under impln.)
7.	Jindal Steels (I) Ltd. (Raigarh, MP)	DRI-EAF Slab/Billets	5.00	421.00	In production Mar, 1996
8.	NOVA STEELS (I) LTD. (Bilaspur, MP)	EAF WR/B&R	2.00	140.00	Under Impln. Mar., 1997
9.	Kalyani Steels Ltd. (Raichur, Karnataka)	EOF Blooms/LP	2.15	231.00	Under Impln. Nov., 1997
10.	Malvika Steel Ltd. (Jagdishpur, UP)	BF-BOF WR/B&R	5.75	1532.50	Under Impln. Dec., 1997 (BFs commissioned, producing pig iron)
11.	Jindal V. Nagar St. Ltd. (Bellary, Karnataka)	COREX-BOF HRC	16.00	3920.00@	Under Impn. State-I : Mar, 97 Stage-II: Sep, 97 Stage-III: Jul. 98
12.	Southern I&S Co. Ltd. (Salem, Tamil Nadu)	BF-EOF B&R, WR	2.02	450.00	Under Impln. Jul, 1997 (BF commissioned, producing pig iron)
13.	SJK Steel Corp. Ltd. (Anantpur, AP)	BF-BOF LP/Billets	2.63	405.00	Under Impln. Jun. 1997
14.	Kumar Met. Corpn. Ltd. (Nalgonda, AP)	EAF WR	1.25	127.00 $	Under Impln. Jan, 1997
15.	Trident Steels ltd. (Dahej, Gujarat)	BF-BOF LP	1.00	99.00	Under Impln. Apr. 1997
16.	ISPAT Industries Ltd. (Raigad, Maharashtra)	EAF HRC	30.00	4570.00*	Under impln. Ph-I: Jul. 97 & Ph-II : Jul. 98
17.	Bellary S&A Ltd. (Bellary, Karnataka)	BF-BOF LP	4.14	891.00	Under impln. Oct. 1998

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit and Location	Process Route/Prod.	Capacity L.Tonnes	Investment Rs. Crores	Status/Date of Commissioning
18.	Usha Ispat Limited (Satarda, Maharashtra)	BF-BOF LP	6.00	1400.00	Under impln. Nov. 1998
19.	Bhuwalka Inds. Ltd. (Bellary, Karnataka)	BF-BOF Billets	2.70	452.00	Under impln. Apr, 1999
20.	Neelachal Ispat N. Ltd (Daitari, Orissa)	BF-BOF Billets/WR	6.20	1510.00	Under impln. Oct, 1999
21.	Grand Foundry Ltd. (Pune, Maharashtra)	EAF B&R, WR	1.20	260.00	Proj. impln. deffered
	Total (A)		122.32	22,225.75	

Increase in Production cost of Steel

3928. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' :
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of steel in our country has increased in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the facilities Government propose to extend to the steel manufacturers to control the cost of steel so that it can compete with the price of imported steel; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to promote the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The cost of production of steel primarily depends upon prices of inputs such as iron ore, coal, steel scrap, energy, costs of freight and labour and financial charges. Some elements of the cost of steel production such as coal, power tariff, petroleum products, railways freight etc. have become costlier in the last three years resulting in higher cost of production.

(c) Apart from the cost of production, the competitiveness of Indian steel would be determined by factors such as international prices, freight costs, exchange rate of rupee, production costs in other countries etc. These factors are usually dynamic and change frequently. SAIL is taking following measures on continuous basis to face the global competition:

— Modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants.

— Increasing capacity utilisation.

— Improving productivity.

— Introducing energy conservation measures.

— Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.

— Improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customers' requirements.

— Reduction in consumption of coke, energy, stores and spares etc.

(d) As per the extant policy, export of iron and steel is freely allowed. Based on prevailing market conditions, enterprises themselves explore and tap the export. However, the measures taken by the Government to facilitate exports include:

(i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;

(ii) Facility available to exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;

(iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods; and

(iv) Exemption of export earning from income-tax under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act.